

This Amendment (along with an RCE) is being timely filed on July 19, 2006 since the due date for filing an Appeal Brief is July 19, 2006 (i.e. two months after filing a Notice of Appeal on May 19, 2006).

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 10-26 and 31 as set forth below.

A complete listing of all claims in this application is set forth below.

Claims 1-9 (canceled).

10. (Currently amended) ~~A support An assembly for a hand-held power tool including (i) a housing having an exterior threaded portion, and (ii) a drive spindle, comprising:~~

a hand-held power tool including (i) a housing having an exterior threaded portion, and (ii) a drive spindle; and

a support apparatus including:

a base;

a vertical support member connected to said base;

a carriage movable in relation to said vertical support member, said carriage having a receptacle that defines an upper opening and a lower opening, ~~said receptacle being configured to receive said hand-held power tool being received within said receptacle~~ so that a first portion of said hand-held power tool extends through said lower opening and a second portion of said hand-held power tool extends through said upper opening; and

~~a nut rotatably supported in relation secured to said receptacle, said nut defining an internally threaded bore extending therethrough, and said internally threaded bore being (i) positioned in alignment with said lower opening of said receptacle, and further (ii) positioned and configured to mate with said exterior threaded portion of said housing of said hand-held power tool being threadingly received within said internally threaded bore defined by said nut when said hand-held power tool is received within said receptacle.~~

11. (Currently amended) The support assembly of claim 10, wherein:

said upper opening possesses a first diameter,

said lower opening possesses a second diameter, and

said second diameter is less than said first diameter.

12. (Currently amended) The support assembly of claim 10, wherein said nut includes an exterior polygonal drive surface.

13. (Currently amended) The support assembly of claim 10, wherein:

said receptacle includes a sidewall vertically disposed between said upper opening and said lower opening, and

said sidewall has defined therein an access opening configured to allow a user's finger to extend therethrough to contact a locking mechanism of the handheld power tool.

14. (Currently amended) The support assembly of claim 10, wherein said support apparatus further comprising includes a retainer member attached to said receptacle, wherein:

said retainer member defines a second bore aligned with said lower opening of said receptacle,

said nut includes (i) a first portion interposed between said receptacle and said retainer member, and (ii) a second portion that extends through said second bore, and

said second portion of said nut includes an exterior polygonal drive surface.

15. (Currently amended) The support assembly of claim 14, wherein:

said retainer member includes a plurality of arms,

said receptacle includes a plurality of slots defined therein, and

said plurality of arms respectively extend through said plurality of slots.

16. (Currently amended) The support assembly of claim 14, wherein:

said first portion of said nut includes a circumferential flange, and

said circumferential flange is interposed between said receptacle and said retainer member.

17. (Currently amended) The support assembly of claim 10, wherein said support apparatus further comprising includes:

a first hand grip attached to a first side of said carriage, and
a second hand grip attached to a second side of said carriage that is
opposite said first side of said carriage.

18. (Currently amended) The support assembly of claim 10, wherein:
said carriage is movable in relation to said vertical support member
between an upper position and a lower position, and
said carriage is spring biased toward said upper position.

19. (Currently amended) The support assembly of claim 18, wherein said support apparatus further comprising includes a stop limit assembly attached to
said carriage, wherein:

said stop limit assembly includes an elongate member having a lower end,
said lower end of said elongate member is spaced apart from said base
when said carriage is located in said upper position, and
said lower end of said elongate member is positioned in contact with said
base when said carriage is located in said lower position.

20. (Currently amended) ~~A support An assembly for a hand-held power tool including (i) a housing having an exterior threaded portion, and (ii) a drive spindle, comprising:~~

a hand-held power tool including (i) a housing having an exterior threaded portion, and (ii) a drive spindle; and

a support apparatus including:

a base;

a vertical support member connected to said base;

a carriage movable in relation to said vertical support member, said carriage having a receptacle that defines an upper opening and a lower opening, said receptacle being configured to receive said hand-held power tool so that a first portion of said hand-held power tool extends through said lower opening and a second portion of said hand-held power tool extends through said upper opening; and

an attachment member rotatably supported in relation secured to said receptacle, said attachment member defining an internally threaded bore, and said internally threaded bore being (i) positioned in alignment with said lower opening of said receptacle, and (ii) positioned ~~and configured to mate in mating relationship~~ with said exterior threaded portion of said housing of said hand-held power tool ~~when said hand-held power tool is received within said receptacle.~~

21. (Currently amended) The support assembly of claim 20, wherein:
said receptacle includes a sidewall vertically disposed between said upper
opening and said lower opening, and
said sidewall has defined therein an access opening configured to allow a
user's finger to extend therethrough to contact a locking mechanism of the hand-
held power tool.

22. (Currently amended) The support assembly of claim 20, wherein said
support apparatus further comprising includes a retainer member attached to
said receptacle, wherein:

said retainer member defines a second bore,
said attachment member includes (i) a first portion interposed between
said receptacle and said retainer member, and (ii) a second portion that extends
through said second bore, and
said second portion of said attachment member includes an exterior
polygonal drive surface.

23. (Currently amended) The support assembly of claim 22, wherein:
said retainer member includes a plurality of arms,
said receptacle includes a plurality of slots defined therein, and
said plurality of arms respectively extend through said plurality of slots.

24. (Currently amended) The support assembly of claim 22, wherein:
said first portion of said attachment member includes a circumferential
flange, and
said circumferential flange is interposed between said receptacle and said
retainer member.

25. (Currently amended) The support assembly of claim 20, wherein:
said carriage is movable in relation to said vertical support member
between a first position and a second position, and
said carriage is spring biased toward said first position.

26. (Currently amended) An assembly, comprising:

a base;

a vertical member connected to said base;

a carriage movable in relation to said vertical support member, said carriage having a receptacle that defines an upper opening and a lower opening;

a hand-held power tool having (i) a housing including a threaded exterior portion, and (ii) a drive spindle, said hand-held power tool being positioned within said receptacle so that a first portion of said hand-held power tool extends through said lower opening and a second portion hand-held power tool extends through said upper opening; and

an attachment member rotatably ~~supported in relation~~ secured to said receptacle, said attachment member having an internally threaded portion that defines a bore extending through said attachment member, said internally threaded portion being meshingly engaged with said threaded exterior portion of said hand-held power tool,

wherein at least a part of said drive spindle is interposed between said carriage and said base when said internally threaded portion of said attachment member is meshingly engaged with said threaded exterior portion of said hand-held power tool.

27. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 26, wherein:
said hand-held power tool further has a bit locking mechanism,
said receptacle includes a sidewall vertically disposed between said upper
opening and said lower opening, and

 said sidewall has defined therein an access opening configured to allow a
user's finger to extend therethrough to contact said bit locking mechanism of
said hand-held power tool.

28. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 26, further comprising
a retainer member attached to said receptacle, wherein:

 said retainer member defines a second bore,
 said attachment member includes (i) a first portion interposed between
said receptacle and said retainer member, and (ii) a second portion that extends
through said second bore, and

 said second portion of said attachment member includes an exterior
polygonal drive surface.

29. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 28, wherein:

 said retainer member includes a plurality of arms,
 said receptacle includes a plurality of slots defined therein, and
 said plurality of arms respectively extend through said plurality of slots.

30. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 28, wherein:
said first portion of said attachment member includes a circumferential
flange, and
said circumferential flange is interposed between said receptacle and said
retainer member.

31. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim 26, wherein:
said carriage is movable in relation to said vertical support member
between an upper position and a lower position, and
said carriage is spring biased toward said upper position.